

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A platter for a weighing scale, comprising:

a base;

a plurality of legs extending downwardly from the base; and

at least one hinged member mounted on the base and movable between a first position in which the hinged member is substantially horizontal and a second position in which the hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

2. The platter according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hinged member includes a first hinged member mounted to a first edge of the base and a second hinged member mounted to a second edge of the base that is opposite to the first edge, the first hinged member being movable between a first member first position in which the first hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the second edge of the base and a first member second position in which the first hinged member extends upwardly from the base, the second hinged member being movable between a second member first position in which the second hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the first edge of the base and a second member second position in which the second hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

3. The platter according to claim 2, wherein:

the first hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and a second side that faces downward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position;

the second hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position and a second side that faces downward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position;

the respective first sides of the first and second hinged members define a surface for supporting a parcel to be weighed by the weighing scale when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and the second hinged member is in the second member first position; and

an upper surface of the base, the second side of the first hinged member and the second side of the second hinged member define a cradle for holding a plurality of mailpieces to be weighed by the weighing scale, when the first hinged member is in the first member second position and the second hinged member is in the second member second position.

4. A platter for a weighing scale, comprising:

a base having a first edge and a second edge that is opposite to the first edge;

a plurality of legs extending downwardly from the base;

a first hinged member mounted to the first edge of the base, the first hinged member being movable between a first member first position in which the first hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the second edge of the base and a first member second position in which the first hinged member extends upwardly from the base; and

a second hinged member mounted to the second edge of the base, the second hinged member being movable between a second member first position in which the second hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the first edge of the base and a second member second position in which the second hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

5. The platter according to claim 4, wherein:

the first hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and a second side that faces downward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position;

the second hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position and a second side that faces downward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position;

the respective first sides of the first and second hinged members define a surface for supporting a parcel to be weighed by the weighing scale when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and the second hinged member is in the second member first position; and

an upper surface of the base, the second side of the first hinged member and the second side of the second hinged member define a cradle for holding a plurality of mailpieces to be differentially weighed by the weighing scale, when the first hinged member is in the first member second position and the second hinged member is in the second member second position.

6. A weighing scale, comprising:

a load cell;

a platter for supporting at least one mailpiece to be weighed by the weighing scale; and

means for mounting the platter on the load cell;

wherein the platter comprises:

a base; and

at least one hinged member mounted on the base and movable between a first position in which the hinged member is substantially horizontal and a second position in which the hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

7. The weighing scale according to claim 6, wherein the at least one hinged member includes a first hinged member mounted to a first edge of the base and a second hinged member mounted to a second edge of the base that is opposite to the first edge, the first hinged member being movable between a first member first position in which the first hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the second edge of the base and

a first member second position in which the first hinged member extends upwardly from the base, the second hinged member being movable between a second member first position in which the second hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the first edge of the base and a second member second position in which the second hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

8. The weighing scale according to claim 7, wherein:

the first hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and a second side that faces downward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position;

the second hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position and a second side that faces downward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position;

the respective first sides of the first and second hinged members define a surface for supporting a parcel to be weighed by the weighing scale when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and the second hinged member is in the second member first position; and

an upper surface of the base, the second side of the first hinged member, and the second side of the second hinged member define a cradle for holding a plurality of mailpieces to be differentially weighed by the weighing scale, when the first hinged member is in the first member second position and the second hinged member is in the second member second position.

9. A weighing scale, comprising:

a load cell;

a platter for supporting at least one mailpiece to be weighed by the weighing scale; and

means for mounting the platter on the load cell;

wherein the platter comprises:

a base having a first edge and a second edge that is opposite to the first edge;

a first hinged member mounted to the first edge of the base, the first hinged member being movable between a first member first position in which the first hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the second edge of the base and a first member second position in which the first hinged member extends upwardly from the base; and

a second hinged member mounted to the second edge of the base, the second hinged member being movable between a second member first position in which the second hinged member extends substantially horizontally toward the first edge of the base and a second member second position in which the second hinged member extends upwardly from the base.

10. The weighing scale according to claim 9, wherein:

the first hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and a second side that faces downward when the first hinged member is in the first member first position;

the second hinged member includes a first side that faces upward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position and a second side that faces downward when the second hinged member is in the second member first position;

the respective first sides of the first and second hinged members define a surface for supporting a parcel to be weighed by the weighing scale when the first hinged member is in the first member first position and the second hinged member is in the second member first position; and

an upper surface of the base, the second side of the first hinged member and the second side of the second hinged member define a cradle for holding a plurality of mailpieces to be differentially weighed by the weighing scale, when the first hinged

member is in the first member second position and the second hinged member is in the second member second position.